

SECRET

Letter
to World Peaceloving
People, Progressive Public
Organizations of All Countries
and International Organizations

Pyongyang, Korea

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Sixteen public organisations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea including the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, on June 4 sent a letter to the world peace-loving people, progressive public organisations of all countries of the world and international organisations in connection with the ever more wanton bloody repression by the military fascist clique for strangulating democracy in south Korea now.

Follows the full text of the letter:

People of the world struggling for justice, democracy and social progress,

Progressive public organisations of all countries of the world and international organisations,

Now, in the southern half of our country, the military fascist clique are becoming ever more wanton in their bloody repression to destroy democracy.

The south Korean military hooligans, who drenched Kwangju city, the city of resistance, with the blood of our brothers and sisters, have turned the whole land of Kwangju into a shuddering hell of death with wholesale search and mopping-up operations, still occupying the city of bloodshed.

We are sending this letter to the world peace-loving people, the progressive public organisations of all countries of the world and international organisations in connection with this intolerable situation in which our brothers and sisters of the same stock suffer bloodshed and death every day, falling victims to the brutalities of the military fascists.

The recent massive popular uprising in Kwangju was an eruption of the long pent-up grievances and resentment of the south Korean students and people who had been oppressed under the fascist "Yusin system" and a just struggle for ending the old fascist order and establishing a new democratic order in south Korea.

But the south Korean military fascists brutally suppressed this righteous struggle of the Kwangju people from the beginning.

By hurling into Kwangju city tens of thousands of men of paratroop and armoured division force of the "ROK army," the Chon Du Hwan group blocked the way of the peaceful demonstrators in front and in the rear and staged an indiscriminate "massacre operation."

On "special orders" of Chon Du Hwan who cried "You may kill 70 per cent of the Kwangju dwellers," "Kill all the youngsters," the paratroopers of the puppet army perpetrated beastly barbarities of putting to death demonstrators, be they old folks or children or women, by shooting them, bayoneting them, clubbing them, trampling them under jackboots or running armoured cars over them.

Thus, the Kumnam-ro district and the whole city of Kwangju turned into a pool of blood already at the beginning of the uprising.

The savage massacre by the Chon Du Hwan group continued day and night, getting more atrocious as time flowed.

They chased students and citizens taking shelter from madly onrushing tanks and armoured cars, smashed gates with handgrenades, dragged them out to streets and killed them by driving swords into their abdomens.

They stabbed to death in cold blood even an old woman of seventy winters when she seized a paratrooper by the collar, angered at the sight of a young girl student like her own granddaughter dying, shedding blood, and they did not hesitate to mangle a girl student with a sword under the eyes of people in broad daylight for the reason that she had carried stones to boy students.

The military gang Chon Du Hwan and his group did not think Kwangju citizens worth a dog.

When the streets of Kwangju were strewn with dead bodies and the whole city was drenched with the blood of our brothers and sisters, the Chon Du Hwan group entrenched in Seoul asked paratroop commanders by telephone "How many dogs have you hunted?" and, on the Kwangju streets, people could hear officers loudly ask, parroting this, "How many dogs have you caught?"

There unfolded in the city the shocking scene of youths being killed or crippled everywhere for the mere reason that they were young.

The military fascists committed shuddering atrocities: They hung boy and girl students in their twenties on trees of a park after murdering them, nabbed girl students of special colleges and high schools, tore their underwear and stripped them naked and murdered them after carrying them away by trucks. They stood a girl student stripped of her clothes in front of the Kwangju fountain and cut off her breasts with a knife.

At this blood-curdling murder which would make even the heaven rage, the Kwangju citizens shouted "Let us die" and "Kill us" in resentment, beating their hearts rent with grief.

They resisted with death to the last, jumping over the dead bodies of kindred and classmates, never yielding to the sanguinary nation-butchery of Chon Du Hwan gangsters who ceased to be human beings.

When they were driven out of Kwangju city by the angry insurgents, the military brigands of south Korea launched a vicious "blockade operation" against Kwangju.

They largely reinforced the armed forces to surround Kwangju in two-fold and three-fold rings and totally cut supplies of rice and food, drinking water, electricity and all other necessities from outside the city in their desperate bid to suffocate the 300,000 Kwangju citizens.

They stopped at a "check point" girl students and a hospital nurse

who were riding in a car to get blood for the heavily wounded in critical conditions and shot them dead after questioning.

When they failed to bring the insurgents under control even with military threat and the "blockade operation," the south Korean fascists at last mounted an allout surprise attack on Kwangju with more than 17,000 "martial law forces" and paratroopers, taking advantage of the rainy dawn on May 27.

They opened artillery fire at the spots where the insurgents were massed and then stormed into the city centre all at once, showering gas shells and machine gun bullets on them, led by tanks and armoured vehicles, with planes hovering overhead.

In Kwangju that day, a shell dropped in the midst of over 1,000 insurgents, drenching the ground 30 metres in diameter with blood, and tanks ran over the bodies, caterpillar chains picking up torn clothes and flesh.

Around the South Cholla provincial office and in front of the "Chonil" building hundreds of resistance fighters of patriotic spirit fell dead with their mouths open and fists clenched, while crying for democracy without the "Yusin system" and morrow without it.

In Kwangju city more than 1,000 people were murdered and upwards of 10,000 others wounded and thousands of people arrested and imprisoned in the first ten days of the sanguinary brutalities perpetrated by the Chon Du Hwan group.

Still now cries of mothers and wives for their sons and daughters and their husbands have not ceased in Kwangju, no one knowing who were killed or who were arrested.

Bloodshed continues and a more horrifying repressive whirlwind is sweeping the city where the first round of bloodbath has been staged. Still occupying Kwangju by force of arms under the pretext of hunting down the "prime movers," the Chon Du Hwan group arrests citizens right and left in its search operation day and night and shoots without warning at people going out of the city to get rice, having run out of food.

The fascist hangmen throw handgrenades at the houses which are locked inside by their hosts in the grip of uneasiness and destroy the whole families. They stabbed and kicked even an old woman going to a pharmacist's to get medicines for her wounded son till she fell half dead, and dragged her away, calling her "mother of a seditious element."

When two little brothers of about 10 were roaming about a back lane, looking for their parents who had not come back from the streets of resistance, the ogreish butchers knocked them down by rifle butts till they bruised all over, calling them "offsprings of mobs." They drubbed and threw into jail a woman stall keeper as "an accomplice of mobs" for the reason that she supplied food to insurgents free of charge.

The city which has been called "Kwangju" (bright town) through

generations out of the desire for a bright future in the grim ordeals of oppression and subjugation for many centuries has been turned today into a land of darkness, a desolate graveyard, by the "Yusin" remnants.

The United States is to blame for this nation-butchery of the Chon Du Hwan group which is plunging one city into a sea of blood, making Koreans suppress and murder Koreans.

Zealously instigating the Chon Du Hwan group to suppress the people, the United States not only approved the mobilisation of the tens of thousands of men of the "ROK army" under its control in the bloody suppression of Kwangju citizens, but also framed a plot to throw even US army units present in south Korea into the crackdown.

In this the United States made it plain that its much vaunted human rights policy was a fraud and its talk about support to the "political development" in south Korea was also false.

This is the truth of the situation of Kwangju created with US encouragement and backing.

Yet, the south Korean military fascist clique are preposterously distorting fact, alleging that the Kwangju incident was caused at the "instigation of north Korean operative" and south Korean democratic figure Kim Dae Jung.

And they rant that the number of those killed in Kwangju is not big and even those deaths were mostly caused by the "shootings" among the insurgents themselves and their "accidental firing" and only 17 people were shot dead by the "martial law forces."

In utterly distorting the truth of the state of things in Kwangju, the south Korean military fascists seek the sinister aim of belittling their indelible crimes against the nation and evading the responsibility, heading off the expansion of the influence of the Kwangju popular uprising and propping up the second "Yusin" dictatorial system.

But with no amount of attempts can they cover up their crimes committed in Kwangju or erase the feats recorded by the Kwangju citizens in the history of struggle of the south Korean people against fascism and for democracy or impair the historic significance of the Kwangju popular uprising.

The Chon Du Hwan group, far from stepping down, answering for the bloodshed in Kwangju, framed up the new "Special National Security Committee" for the "security" of its power and is choosing to establish a truculent military administration.

This is a grave act of provocation which will cause a greater bloodshed in the southern half of our country, spell a national calamity and endanger peace in Korea and Asia and, furthermore, in the world.

Expressing deep apprehensions as to the situation created in south Korea, we consider that the reckless acts of the south Korean military fascist clique must be thwarted and frustrated and the democratisation

of south Korean society be realised without fail to suit the purpose and desire of the world's people struggling for peace, democracy and social progress.

Now, many countries, international organisations and progressive organisations of the world are rendering active support to the fighting south Korean people and taking a number of steps denouncing the south Korean puppets including severance of diplomatic relations with them in protest against their suppression of the people. This is a great encouragement to the south Korean people who are in a state of suffocation under the "emergency martial law."

Taking this opportunity, we extend deep thanks to the progressive organisations and peoples of all countries of the world and international organizations and express the hope that they will in the future, too, denounce the "Yusin" dictatorship of the south Korean military fascist clique and continue to render positive support and encouragement to the just struggle of the south Korean people for the release of Kim Dae Jung and other democrats and people and the democratization of society.

The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea

The Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea

The League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea

The Korean Democratic Women's Union

The General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea

The Korean Journalists Union

The Korean Christians Federation

The Korean Buddhists Federation

The Consultative Council of Former South Korean Politicians in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification

The Korean Democratic Lawyers' Association

The Korean Students Committee

The Korean National Peace Committee

The Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World People

The Korean Committee for Asian-African Solidarity

Pyongyang, June 4, 1980